

DARWIN

FESTIVAL

4-21 AUGUST 2022

SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Driven by  **NORTHERN TERRITORY**
Formerly Buslink



The Boy Who Talked to Dogs

Photo: Andy Ellis

HI THERE,

We're delighted to present another diverse and exciting program of performance for the students of Darwin.

Darwin Festival recognises the important role we play in bringing high-quality performance to the Northern Territory, and believe all young people should have the opportunity to participate in the arts.

We work closely with teachers and schools to make the most of these few weeks, and are always looking for further ways to engage with schools and reduce barriers to participation.

We hope that you and your students will enjoy at least one of this year's amazing performances. Stick around afterwards to meet the artists – it's often the best part!

Best wishes,

FELIX PREVAL

Darwin Festival Artistic Director



Sunshine Super Girl

By Andrea James

THEATRE // RECOMMENDED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
(AGES 12+)

Evonne Goolagong's heart-warming story is a celebration of spirit and passion over adversity, and a tribute to a woman whose sporting prowess continues to inspire a nation.

A young girl hits a ball against the tin wall of her family's home. This is where it all began for Evonne Goolagong. Hers is a quintessentially Blak Australian story about a girl from the bush who dared to dream – and who became world number one and a household name by the age of 19.

With its peculiarly Australian sensibility, humour and humility, *Sunshine Super Girl* asks us to consider our nation's future and the part we can play for the next 'Goolagong' waiting in the wings.

Written and directed by Yorta Yorta / Gunaikurnai theatremaker Andrea James *Sunshine Super Girl* combines drama with traditional and contemporary Aboriginal dance, ballet and ballroom dance styles to explore connection to country, adversity and racism in Australia with heart and humour.

WHEN: Fri 12 Aug 11am
WHERE: The Playhouse, Darwin Entertainment Centre
DURATION: 1hr 35mins

All student tickets \$15. For every 10 students booked, one teacher or guardian is entitled to a complimentary ticket.



Photo: Jamie James

Links to the Curriculum Standards

Sunshine Super Girl is a unique opportunity to see a First Nations theatre work, created and performed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

Content descriptor: Practise and refine the expressive capacity of voice and movement to communicate ideas and dramatic action in a range of forms, styles and performance spaces, including exploration of those developed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dramatists.

General capabilities: Critical Thinking, Intercultural Understanding, Ethical Understanding and Social and Personal Learning

- Critical Thinking
 - Recognise personal qualities and achievements
 - Develop reflective practice
 - Draw on curiosity, imagination and thinking skills to pose questions and explore ideas
- Intercultural Understanding
 - First Nations perspectives
 - Empathise with the emotions, needs and situations of others
- Ethical Understanding and Social and Personal Learning
 - Understanding First Nations perspectives
 - Think about how life experiences affect and influence peoples' decision-making and whether various positions held are reasonable

Themes:

- First Nations stories
- Australian sporting history
- Adversity and success

Note: Contains adult themes. **Education pack available on request**

Slingsby Theatre Company

The Boy Who Talked to Dogs

THEATRE // RECOMMENDED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
(AGES 12+)

The epic true story of Byron Bay 'Dog Man' Martin McKenna is brought to life with shadow puppetry, swinging Irish music and stunning physical performance.

Young Martin is a misfit. Bullied at school and misunderstood at home, his only comfort comes from sneaking off to the family coal shed to bond with his German Shepherds, Major and Rex.

When things reach breaking point, the 13-year-old runs away from his home in Limerick, Ireland and finds himself taken in by a new family – a pack of stray dogs. As they dodge trains, steal meals and fight for survival, Martin finds himself on the road he was always meant to take.

Beautifully adapted by Irish playwright Amy Conroy from Martin McKenna's best-selling memoir and starring acclaimed Irish actor Bryan Burroughs, *The Boy Who Talked to Dogs* is a magical and mischievous tale of transformation, redemption and what happens when the underdog finds his pack.

WHEN: Fri 12 Aug 11am
WHERE: Studio Theatre, Darwin Entertainment Centre
DURATION: 1hr 10mins

All student tickets \$15. For every 10 students booked, one teacher or guardian is entitled to a complimentary ticket.



Photo: Andy Ellis

Links to the Curriculum Standards

The Boy Who Talks to Dogs is an engaging true story that explores themes of bullying, acceptance and resilience.

Content descriptor: Combine the elements of drama in devised and scripted theatre to explore and develop issues, ideas and themes.

General capabilities: Critical and Creative Thinking

- Identifying and analysing how the elements of performance are combined to focus and drive the dramatic action for an audience
- Discussing how the elements of drama have been used in a performance
- Critically analysing and evaluating their own and others' dramatic outcomes for their artistic and cultural merit
- Analyse how the elements of drama have been combined in devised and scripted drama to convey different forms, performance styles and dramatic meaning

Themes:

- Bullying
- Friendship
- Creative theatrical staging (the production uses live music and projection and is seated cabaret style)

Note: Contains themes of domestic violence, theatrical smoke effects and loud noises.

Education pack available on request

Erth Visual & Physical Inc

Prehistoric Picnic

SPECIAL EVENT // RECOMMENDED FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Mega fauna from the time of the dinosaurs come to life through life-sized puppets that will challenge and inspire audiences.

It's been a while – 65 million years, actually – since Darwin echoed to the calls and footsteps of dinosaurs. Now, thanks to Erth, Sydney's world-famous dino-recreationists, it's like they never left.

There's nothing like a good bit of lawn for a dinosaur to stretch its legs and do all the things a dinosaur's gotta do. Created to spark feelings of wonder, Erth's *Prehistoric Picnic* sends the lawns of MAGNT back to the wilderness of a distant era in a delight for the whole family. Pack a picnic, practise your best dino-voice and prepare to get very close to your favourite ancient creatures – including the newest members of Erth's prehistoric menagerie, the towering, three-metre-tall Thunderbirds!

WHEN	Thu 11 & Fri 12 Aug 10am
WHERE:	Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
DURATION:	1hr

All student tickets \$15. For every 10 students booked, one teacher or guardian is entitled to a complimentary ticket.



Photo: Cassandra Hannagan

Links to the Curriculum Standards

Prehistoric Picnic brings to life ancient megafauna through lifelike puppets, engaging students in science and history in an interactive and accessible format.

Content descriptor: Use materials, techniques and processes to explore visual conventions when making artworks.

Cross curriculum priority: Understanding the ways social, economic and environmental systems interact to support and maintain human life.

General capabilities: Critical and Creative Thinking

- Consider how and why artists, craftspeople and designers realise their ideas through different visual representations, practices, processes and viewpoints
- Explore, observe and identify ideas and symbols used and adapted by artists in their artworks as they make and respond to visual arts

Themes:

- History of the natural world and the Northern Territory
- The science of evolution

Trick of the Light Theatre (NZ)

Tröll

THEATRE // RECOMMENDED FOR UPPER PRIMARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (AGES 10+)

A coming-of-age story of a 12-year-old boy grappling with trolls both online and mythological, as well as relationships with his family and kids at his school.

It's 1997. Otto is twelve but online he's 13 and he's pretty sure he gets away with it. He lives in an old wooden two-story house with his mum, dad, and sister, a chain-smoking Icelandic granny and an ancient malevolent tröll that's living in the wall...

From New Zealand's Trick of the Light Theatre comes *Tröll*. Storytelling, music and puppetry come together in this uncanny tale from the twitchy edges of the digital age about the monsters we brought along with us.

This darkly comic one-man show brings the innovative staging and intricate narrative that enchanted audiences with *The Bookbinder* into the digital world. As smartphones become light sources, laptops transform into skyscrapers, and charger cords morph into puppets, it tells a story both mythic and modern in the vein of *Stranger Things*.

WHEN: Fri 19 Aug 11am
WHERE: Brown's Mart Theatre
DURATION: 55mins

All student tickets \$15. For every 10 students booked, one teacher or guardian is entitled to a complimentary ticket.



Photo: Tabitha Arthur Photography

Links to the Curriculum Standards

Tröll combines storytelling, music, and puppetry into an uncanny tale that will engage students with fantasy and humour while tackling issues they may be struggling with.

Content descriptor: Plan, structure and rehearse drama, exploring ways to communicate and refine dramatic meaning for theatrical effect.

General capabilities: Critical and Creative Thinking

- Use conventions of story and other devices such as dramatic symbol to communicate meaning and shape and sustain drama for audiences' viewpoints
- Explore dramatic action, empathy and space in improvisations, playbuilding and scripted drama to develop characters and situations

Themes:

- Creative storytelling
- Innovative shadow puppetry and staging techniques

Note: Contains smoke or haze effects. **Education pack available on request**

Movement of the Human (NZ)

Meremere

DANCE & THEATRE // RECOMMENDED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (AGES 12+)

An inspiring autobiographical survival story from an exceptional artist told with documentary footage, interviews, movement and imagery.

Meremere is a stunning autobiographical multimedia dance work that brings the insightful, surprising, very personal and incredibly engaging story of artist Rodney Bell to life.

A critically acclaimed dancer and performer, Bell is internationally renowned for his physically integrated performance. He relocated to California in 2007 to join AXIS Dance Company as principal dancer, but after finishing with the company he faced many challenges – including a period of homelessness on the streets of San Francisco. That life changing experience inspired the creation of *Meremere*.

Meremere is layered and compelling, an autobiographical performance work that integrates documentary footage, interviews, movement and imagery into 60 extraordinary minutes. Whether you're a lover of dance, music or the spoken word, *Meremere* will have you entranced.

WHEN: Fri 19 Aug 11am
WHERE: Studio Theatre, Darwin Entertainment Centre
DURATION: 1hr

All student tickets \$15. For every 10 students booked, one teacher or guardian is entitled to a complimentary ticket.



Photo: Tom Hoyle and Ian Hammond

Links to the Curriculum Standards

Meremere is the powerful and inspiring true story of performer Rodney Bell, his life changing experiences and unique perspective told with charm and humour.

Content descriptor: Manipulate combinations of the elements of dance and choreographic devices to communicate their choreographic intent

General capabilities: Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical Understanding and Social and Personal Learning

- Critical and Creative Thinking
 - Evaluate choreographers' intentions and expressive skills in dances they view and perform
 - Identifying and discussing different performance styles and the portrayal of different roles and relationships in the drama
- Ethical Understanding and Social and Personal Learning
 - Think about how life experiences affect and influence peoples' decision-making and why

Themes:

- First Nations storytelling
- Dance and disability
- Survival and adversity
- Innovative stage design

Note: Contains course language and smoke or haze effects. **Education pack available on request**

TICKETING INFORMATION

All student tickets \$15. For every 10 students booked, one teacher or guardian is entitled to a complimentary ticket.

Please download a booking form at **darwinfestival.org.au** or contact our friendly Box Office team for more information.

P: 08 8943 4222 **E:** boxoffice@darwinfestival.org.au

Limited free bus transportation is available thanks to generous support of CDC Northern Territory, formerly Buslink. Please indicate your interest in free charter transport when completing the booking form.

RISK ASSESSMENT

As part of its work practices, Darwin Festival has extensive WHS processes and procedures in place to enable us to cater for large numbers of patrons across multiple venues.

To help assist schools with their Risk Assessment Forms, we have supplied information regarding the venues on the following page.

Should you need to get in contact with us or have any further questions on this, please contact us via phone or email as listed above.

Venue:

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

Brief:

An outdoor space located between the beach and museum (in front of the MAGNT café). The area is grassed with limited shade and will be separated for ticket holders. Care should be taken when moving around the space. Darwin Festival and MAGNT staff will be in attendance.

Venue:	Brown's Mart Theatre
Brief:	A heritage listed air-conditioned theatre venue with a medium-sized undercover veranda for shade.
Hazards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even-surfaced venue with highly reduced risk of slip or trips • Power leads are taped down and do not cross pathways • Sufficient house lighting at the entry/exit at start and end of shows • Illuminated steps in the auditorium • 'No-go' or 'staff only' zones are clearly signed • Exit signs are illuminated • Front of house staff will be in attendance • Courtyard is fenced and can be opened in the event of an emergency
Disabled Access:	Yes
Toilets:	2 x female stalls and 2 x hand basins 1 x male stall and 1 x urinal, and 2 x hand basins 1 x disabled toilet and 1 x hand basin
First Aider:	Yes, however teacher will be the first responder for their own students
First Aid Kit:	Yes
Fire Extinguishers:	Yes

Venue:	Darwin Entertainment Centre – Studio Theatre & Playhouse
Brief:	A modern air-conditioned theatre venue with a large veranda area and large foyer. The seating in the Studio Theatre is built with a steep incline/decline. Care should be taken when moving around the theatre.
Hazards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even-surfaced venue with highly reduced risk of slip or trips • Power leads are taped down and do not cross pathways • Sufficient house lighting at the entry/exit at start and end of shows • Clearly marked illuminated steps in the auditorium • 'No-go' or 'staff only' zones are clearly signed • Exit signs are illuminated • Front of house staff will be in attendance
Disabled Access:	Yes
Toilets:	Adequate toilets to service 1,000 people during peak performance times
First Aider:	Yes, however teacher will be the first responder for their own students
First Aid Kit:	Yes
Fire Extinguishers:	Yes

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